



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT: CREATING A TRAJECTORY OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(December 4, 2008)--- Mayor Eddie A. Perez says that Hartford and the region made great strides today in providing more than 400 homeless people with access to information and services to help them regain stability in their lives. The progress was made at the second annual Project Homeless Connect (PHC) --- a one day, one-stop event designed to help the region end chronic homelessness by 2015.

Mayor Perez greeted participants, as did Philip Mangano, Executive Director of U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. More than 200 volunteers assisted and more than 75 companies and agencies were also on hand at the XL Center in Downtown Hartford, the host facility for this outreach event. Here are examples of how folks were helped:

- 34 received DMV IDs
- 31 got prescriptions glasses
- 39 applications for Birth Certificates were filed
- 40 applications were filed for CT Dept of Social Services benefits
- 15 applications were filed for Social Security replacement cards
- 82 people had legal consultations
- 120 people received haircuts
- 20 people were interviewed for jobs
- Medical Screenings
 - Glaucoma - 70
 - Blood Pressure - 100
 - Blood Sugar - 75
 - PSA - 25
 - HIV - 62
- Shots
 - Flu - 66
 - Tetanus - 46
 - Hepatitis A + B - 41
- Exams/ Treatments
 - Dental - 96
 - Podiatry - 52
 - Dermatology - 25
 - Acupuncture - 100

Access to information and services were also made available regarding housing, employment, benefits, finances, medical services, behavioral health and legal questions. Participants also received a backpack with items to assist them throughout the winter.

Mayor Perez says, “Personal connections were made today to help individuals get back on their feet again. You could see the hope in people’s faces. With the current economic crisis, more people are in need and this instant access to information and services is crucial to helping them regain stability. The City appreciates all the extra effort from our friends at Hand on Hartford for helping to coordinate this incredible effort.”

“Hartford’s commitment to its homeless neighbors is made tangible in Project Homeless Connect, the one-day one stop initiative to welcome the most vulnerable back into the heart of the community,” said Mangano. “Mayor Perez, the XL Center, and Journey Home are all to be commended for their commitment to create a trajectory out of homelessness.”

PHC is a national initiative of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. It has been implemented in 200 cities (updated number) across the United States, Canada and Australia. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), between 2005 and 2007, the number of homeless people experiencing chronic homelessness--- our most vulnerable and disabled neighbors--- dropped from nearly 176,000 to fewer than 124,000, a decrease of nearly 30%.